Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/685,786	TOKUNAGA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas A. Morrison	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *applicant's 1/22/2007 amendment*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-3,5-17 and 20*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 11/08/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

PATRICK MACKEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to independent claims 1, 2, 17 and 20 of the instant application, U.S. Patent No. 5,553,840 (Arikawa), U.S. Patent No. 5,415,390 (Guerrero), Japanese Publication No. 61-2641 and Figures 10-11 of the instant application are the closest prior art references of record.

Claim 1 is allowable because the prior art of record taken as a whole fails to show or render obvious the combination of method steps set forth including at the time of the gathering process, the rotation member rotates in a gathering direction to slap down the paper using the changeable piece with a wider radius distance than a radius of the piece when it is at rest, and at the time of the feeding process, the rotation member rotates in a feeding direction to allow the paper to be fed.

Claims 2 and 17 are allowable because the prior art of record taken as a whole fails to show or render obvious the combination of elements set forth including a rotation member which is provided with a changeable piece having a material such that a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis is changeable by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member, wherein the rotation member is structured to rotate in a gathering direction and in a feeding direction.

Claim 20 is allowable because the prior art of record taken as a whole fails to show or render obvious the combination of elements set forth including a rotation member which is provided with impeller means for changing a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation

member, wherein the rotation member is structured to rotate in a gathering direction and in a feeding direction.

Regarding all of the independent claims 1, 2, 17 and 20, the gathering direction is understood to be different from the feeding direction.

With regard to claims 1, 2 and 17, the Guerrero patent, Japanese Publication No. 61-2641 and Figures 10-11 of the instant application each disclose a rotation member with a changeable piece having a material such that a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis is changeable by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member. However, these rotation members are only rotated in a gathering direction. There is no motivation or suggestion to rotate any of these rotation members in a feeding direction, as required by claims 1, 2 and 17. Also, these references do not disclose or suggest that these rotation members would function as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 17, if such rotation members were rotated in a feeding direction. Moreover, there is no motivation to combine any of these rotation members with the feeding and gathering device of the Arikawa patent.

The Arikawa patent includes the combinations generally set forth in claims 1, 2 and 17, but does not disclose or suggest a rotation member provided with a changeable piece having a material such that a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis is changeable by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member, as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 17.

With regard to claim 20, the Guerrero patent, Japanese Publication No. 61-2641 and Figures 10-11 of the instant application each disclose a rotation member with

impeller means for changing a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member. However, these rotation members are only rotated in a gathering direction. There is no motivation or suggestion to rotate any of these rotation members in a feeding direction, as required by claim 20. Also, these references do not disclose or suggest that these rotation members would function as set forth in claim 20, if such rotation members were rotated in a feeding direction. Moreover, there is no motivation to combine any of these rotation members with the feeding and gathering device of the Arikawa patent.

The Arikawa patent includes the combinations generally set forth in claim 20, but does not disclose or suggest a rotation member provided with impeller means for changing a radius distance between a tip section and a rotation axis by centrifugal force produced by rotation of the rotation member, as set forth in claim 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

03/01/2007

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